



## **A VISION FOR PORTREE HARBOUR**

October 2018



Our vision is to create a vibrant maritime portal to Skye, retaining the essential nature of Portree harbour as a picturesque fishing, commercial and leisure hub. The goals are consistent with the wider policy of creating port-based stepping stones to increase the capacity and spread the benefit of marine tourism, northwards throughout the Hebrides and coastal Highlands. The sustainable plan integrates community ownership and phased transition to full local control with sensitive commercial development and publically funded strategic infrastructure. We anticipate compounding beneficial impact on the economy of the whole region.

## TODAY

Skye has seen unprecedented growth as a global tourist destination. Infrastructure has not kept pace. This is particularly evident in the island capital Portree, despite decades of well-intended conversation. Private enterprise has yielded incremental improvements in bedroom and dining capacity but a coherent plan for the town and particularly the harbour area is now needed.

- Deterioration of the pier and primitive facilities for our fishing fleet and visiting boats.
- Pedestrian, cars, PSVs and articulated HGVs share confined space.
- Minimal facilities for local and visiting leisure craft and no overnight pontoons.
- Absence of all-tides launching and recovery slips or dockside lifeboat access.
- Abject lack of any adaptation for high volume cruise ship passenger transfer
- Lack of space for future mixed-use development to service increased footfall.
- Exposure to prevailing winds

## TOMORROW

Portree Harbour- The Marine Gateway to Skye

- Welcoming visitors from the sea to the island
- Facilitating seafaring to north and west
- A sustainable economic and cultural catalyst
- A beautiful place for work, rest, and play.



## MAKING IT HAPPEN

- **Investment, Ownership and management**

There is a compelling case for exceptional funding as the only means whereby the necessary elements of the plan can be executed.

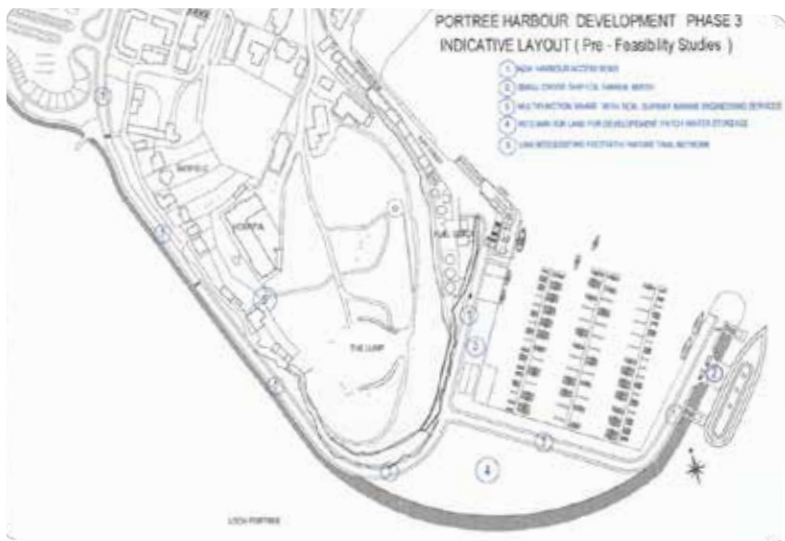
An island-biased model is needed, for transition to community ownership and management of the principle assets and revenue sources in the harbour area.

- **Roads and Access**

The long-established local plan providing access to the harbour from the south and bypassing the town with a route towards Staffin should be delivered. This eliminates heavy traffic movements and prioritises pedestrian traffic widely throughout the historic centre and harbour.

- **Breakwater, Pontoons and Pier**

A southern access road provides a location from which a breakwater would extend. This is essential for sea state management and to provide a shelter for pontoons, slipways and a dockside-accessible RNLI Lifeboat station. The existing pier is retained but requires comprehensive rebuild to sustain and service a working fishing fleet and provide a secure location for cruise ship passenger transfer.



- **Land Release for Employment, Commercial Activity and Culture**

Approximately half of the current pier head real estate is occupied by an oil depot formerly serviced from the sea. There is willingness on the part of the site owner to relocate but this requires funding and local planning support. This site is attractive for commercial development and provides space for a building to act as a welcome centre for seaborne visitors, celebrating the history, art and island life of Skye.



**For more information please contact: Fiona Thomson, Development Officer,  
Portree and Braes Community Trust, Office 5, Jans, 6 Broom Place, Portree,  
Isle of Skye, IV51 9HL / [fiona@portreeandbraes.org](mailto:fiona@portreeandbraes.org) / 07570652953.**

Portree and Braes Community Trust is a registered charity (SCIO) No. SC046593. The trust exists to stimulate and coordinate the economic, cultural and environmental regeneration of the area in response to community identified needs.